the Committee and the final decision of the Government will be announced shortly.

Non-procurement of Rice from North Balasore by FCI

2684. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has not procured rice from North Balasore in Orissa;

(b) whether the farmers in that traditional rice bowl areas of Orissa are facing problems going for distress sell due to FCI stopped procurement; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to rescue the farmers and start the procurement of rice from North Balasore and other rice growing areas of undivided Balasore district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

During the current Kharif Marketing Season 1999-2000, Food Corporation of India has already procured 1,73,050 quintals of rice (upto 7-8-2000), from Balasore district of Orissa, which is much more than the quantity of 20,210 quintals procured last year. This is also much higher than the target of one lakh quintals fixed by the State Government. Procurement for the current Season is still *on,*

Roll Back of Price Hike of PDS items for North-Eastern States

2685. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the North-Eastcrn State's Chief Ministers regarding roll back

of recent revised rate of BPL/APL rice through PDS for the adversely affected people specially in the hill areas;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the alternate arrangement taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Based on the recommendations of the Expenditure Reform Commission, Central Issue Prices of Wheat and Rice for distribution under Targetted Public Distribution System have been revised with effect from the 25th July, 2000, as follows:

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	BPL	APL
(i) Wheat	415	830
(ii) Rice		
Common	565	—
Grade 'A'	565	1130

Wheat and Sugar in Warehouses

2686. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are facing the problem of plenty of wheat and sugar;

(b) if so, what is the excess amount filled in the warehouses; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The stock position of